Research Proposal

Coalescing Stylistics and Critical Discourse Analysis in Interpreting Selected Speeches (and Developing Exercises for Undergraduate Students.)

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OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSED TOPIC OF RESEARCH

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Proposed Topic of Research

Coalescing Stylistics and Critical Discourse Analysis in Interpreting Selected Speeches and Developing Exercises for Undergraduate Students.

Objectives of the Proposed Research

- To understand a speech deeply by applying Critical Discourse Analysis.
- To analyze the speeches syntactically as well as semantically.
- To study the ideology, power structure, and subtext of selected speeches.
- To help students develop literary and linguistic understanding of the language (of a speech) with the help of stylistics and discourse analysis - a newly developing branch of linguistics.
- To help students discover textual and sub textual contents of a speech discourse.
- To develop exercises based on textual discourse of speeches to help students attain proficiency in language.

- To facilitate everyday class room teaching by providing sample exercises on selected speeches under review.
- To help both the teachers and the learners of language, read, analyze develop exercises on similar speech discourse.

Introduction

Stylistics is a branch of linguistics which focuses on lexical and literary elements. Stylistics is a formalistic kind of approach. It is a way how a reader observes the nuances or subtleties of only the text. One definition (Thornborrow &Wareing, 1998,p.4) identifies three key aspects of stylistics:1.the use of linguistics((the study of language) to approach literary texts;2.the discussion of texts according to objective criteria rather than according to purely subjective and impressionistic values;3.an emphasis on the aesthetic properties of language. Stylistics defines readers interaction with the given text.. Stylisticians use the same kind of approach for analyzing a non-literary text as they use for a literary text. The stylistic features in a speech remain flexible and do not follow rigid rules, as style is not a matter of grammaticality, but rather of appropriateness.

Stylistics is the study of interpretation of texts from linguistic perspective. As a discipline it is a connection between literary criticism and linguistics. Stylistics looks at what is 'going on' within the language, what are the linguistic associations that the style of language reveals. With stylistics we aim to explain how the words of a text create the feeling and responses that we get when we read them. M.A.K. Halliday thinks, the processor of stylistic analysis can be divided into three logically ordered phrases: Analysis, Interpretation and Evaluation. Although two sentences may have exactly the same ideational and interpersonal functions, they may be different in terms of textual coherence (Hu Zhuanglin, 1988:315)

Modern stylistics has its roots in Russian formalism.Charles Bally proposed stylistic as a distinct academic discipline to complement Saussurean linguists. Another linguistic Fowler comments that "different fields produce different language, most obviously at the level of vocabulary (Fowler.1996,192)

In the Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language, Crystal observes that in practice, most stylistic analysis has attempted to deal with the complex and valued language within literature i.e. 'literary stylistics'.

Collins Dictionary defines :stylistics describes things relating to the methods and techniques used in creating a piece of writing,music or art.

The Websters' dictionary speaks stylistics as 'an aspect of literary study that emphasized the analysis of various elements of style(as metaphor and diction); the study of the devices in a language that produce expressive value.

1.Critical discourse analysis "concerns itself with the use of language in a running discourse, continued over a number of sentences, and involving the interaction of speaker (or writer) and auditor (or reader) in a specific situational context, and within a framework of social and cultural conventions" (Abraham and Harpham; A Glossary of Literacy Terms 2005.P.).

Critical Discourse Analysis is an emergent branch of linguistics which is in the process of developing and defining its basic assumptions and concepts. However it includes not only traditional syntax as the final largest unit of language but also goes well beyond to embrace the content, ideology, theories expressed through language and also the study of the aim of the speaker in using these devices.

The term 'CDA' came to be used in 1970s in relation to the study of language under critical Linguistics. CDA is an inter disciplinary approach to study language from different stand points in which it combines three separate forms of analysis into one another namely (a) analysis of language texts (written or spoken form) (b) analysis of discourse practice which includes the process of text production, distribution and consumption and (C) analysis of the discussing event as instance of sociocultural practice.

At the first level CDA considers the syntax, metaphor, structure and various rhetorical devices used in the text i.e. a type of stylistic analysis. At the second level it studies the production, distribution and consumption of the text focusing on 'how power relations are enacted. At the third level the analysis is concerned with the inter textual understanding, trying to understand the broad societal currents that are affecting the text being studied.

In critical domain as van Dijk in his book *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis* says "Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance and inequality are enacted, reproduced and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context". According to another linguist Fairclough the term refers to "the whole process of interaction of which a text is just a part" (Fairclough. 1989. p. 24) Critical discourse analysis includes the place of language in social relations of power and ideology, and how language figures in processes of social change". (Norman Fairclough). CDA thus is the study of the ways in which language is used in different texts and varying contexts.

Let us now deconstruct the term 'Critical Discourse Analysis' and understand what they signify when synchronized. Before a detailed study of the whole approach of

CDA it is necessary to make the three basic concepts namely 'Critical', 'Discourse' and 'Analysis' quite clear.

"Critical" means, as Ruth Wodak says, not taking things for granted, opening up complexity, challenging reductionism, dogmatism and dichotomies, being self reflective in research, and through these processes, making opaque structures of power relations and ideologies. "Critical", thus, does not imply the common sense meaning of "being negative"- "skeptical". In CDA the notion of 'critical' is mainly applied to the engagement with power relations. The role of this critical approach is to unfold the hidden power relations very wisely constructed through the use of language.

The term 'discourse' is also a very contested and contestable term and a debated and debatable term. Let us first know its literal meaning? According to ALD (Advance Learner's Dictionary) 'discourse' means- 'a speech or piece of writing about a particular, usually serious subject, a communication in speech or writing'. According to Collins dictionary- 'it is spoken or written communication between people, especially serious discussion of a particular subject; a discourse is a serious talk or piece of writing which is intended to teach or explain something'.

Analysis in CDA doesn't confine itself to structural and textual analysis. Going one step further CDA, analyses not only what is said and included but also what is excluded (what moves beneath the text) In this study stylistic analysis and CDA deal with an implicit or explicit comparison of linguistic features between a collection of textual discourse of speeches. Through the use of stylistic and critical analysis I have tried to untie every knot from the speeches for a better understanding of a speech by the students. However there is further scope of exploring the speeches by giving certain theory or making model for analysis. James Gee uses the term discourse to enact activities and identities. while MC Carthy uses the term to discuss language beyond the sentence level- an analytical

advance that allows us to consider some of the things that are happening in the language and that are only observable if we look beyond single sentence".

The present study analyses the great speeches or discourses by the great orators using Stylistics and CDA. Out of a gamut of speeches, this study specifies four categories of speeches viz. Political, Organizational, Cultural and Motivational speeches.

These speeches not only reflect the structural meaning but also social, political and psychological discourse running throughout the subtext of the speeches. These speeches have been delivered in different context and different situations. Nevertheless when analyzed critically all of them are found replete with hidden, indirect, related and even unexpressed discourse. These speeches became popular speeches in their respective fields whether it may be political, social, cultural, motivational or organizational sphere. Critical Discourse Analysis considers the power relations behind these speeches. In the proposed research we combine both the tools of interpretation ; stylistics and CDA for finding analogy, simile, metaphor, alliteration, repetition, parallelism and ideology, social political or psychological discourse respectively.

Literature Review of Research Topic

Stylistics is a sub discipline of linguistics which grew up in the second half of the twentieth century. It began as Anglo – American criticism with the publication of the books: "Style in Language" by Sebeok, Thomas A. (1960) Cambridge. "Essays on Style in Language" by fowler Roger (ed.) (1966) London. "Linguistics and Literary style" by Freemen; Donald c. (ed.) (1971) New York .

Stylistics has its roots to the novel way of looking at the text which focuses on interpreting the text rather than the author .Talking retrospectively we can say nineteenth Century literary criticism concentrated on the author while twentieth century concentrated on studying text rather than authors i.e. the language of text. One of the pioneers of such "new criticism" I.A. Richards, rejected undue concentration on author and favoured analysis of language of text. Following Richards , Roman Jakobson became one of the most influential linguists of the 20th century who emphasized on Stylistics considerably. In Britain Linguistic Stylistics was established by British linguists in 1930s. The other important proponents are M.A.K. Halliday, John Sinclair and John Rupert Firth. Michael Halliday played an important role in development of British stylistics. He published *'Linguistics Functions and Literary style'* in 1971. Fowler comments that different fields produce different language, most obviously at the level of vocabulary (Fowler. 1996, 192). In the Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language, Crystal observes that most of the stylistic analysis has attempted to deal with the complex and valued Language with literature i.e. literary stylistics.

Critical Discourse Analysis emerged from 'Critical Linguistics (CL) developed at the university of East Anglia in the 1970s, and in general parlance the terms are inter changeable with each other. In particular CDA was first developed by the Lancaster school of linguists of which Norman Fairclough was the most prominent figure. Ruth Wodak has also made a remarkable contribution in his field of study. Her research is mainly located in Discourse studies and in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Together with her colleagues and Ph.D. students in Vienna, she elaborated the "Discourse Historical Approach in CDA" which is inter disciplinary, problem oriented, and analyses changes in discursive practices over time and in various genres. The approach draws from several disciplines in the humanities and

social sciences, such as critical linguistics. In addition to linguistic theory, the approach CDA draws from social theory also. Ideology has been called the basis of social representations.

In Britain CDA originated in 1980s when the work "Language and Control" was published by Tony Trew. Van Dijk (1985) who alongwith M.A.K. Halliday is known to be the pioneers in the field. In the past twenty years, the concept Critical Discourse Analysis developed quickly in abroad and achieved great achievements. A large number of scholars have made contribution in the field of critical analysis of political, motivational, cultural or business discourse. Some work has been done in China also, however, CDA is comparatively a kind of new study in China. Only a few researchers work in this field. Since 90s of the last century, some articles about the basic theories and principles of CDA have just appeared in linguistic journals. In China Chen Zhongzhu, a professor in Beijing University was the first person who introduced CDA to China. He made a review of the critical linguistics and introduced its philosophical and theoretical foundations to Chinese linguistics. Xin Bin is another prominent and productive scholar of CDA in China from 1996 to 2002, he published many articles to further the study of Critical Discourse Analysis in which he discussed the birth, development and methods of critical linguistics.

The start of the CDA network was marked by the launch of Van Dijk's (1990) journal Discourse and Society as well as by several books which were coincidentally published simultaneously and led by similar research.

The CDA group is a network of scholars emerged in the early 1990s. Through the support of the university of Amsterdam, Teun Van Dijk, Norman Fair Clough, Gunther Kress, Theo Van Leeuwen and Ruth Wodak discussed theories and methods of Discourse Analysis, specifically CDA.

Mc Carthy (1994) has also used the term to discuss language beyond the sentence level – an analytical advance that allows use to consider some of the things that are happening in

language that are only observable if we look beyond single sentence- the concept of 'this' and 'that' which covers the whole ideology and policy of the speaker and the opponent.

Research Gap:

In the literature review of the proposed topic it is found that

- Studies/ works on stylistic analysis of speeches have been done in India as well as abroad.
- Studies/works on CDA of speeches have been done mainly in abroad and rarely in India.
- Studying speeches together and from different strata of life is still to be explored.
- Moreover a detailed study of speeches coalescing stylistics and Critical Discourse Analysis is required which the present research poses to go with
- A comprehensive and elaborate analysis will help us see the monumental impact of speech discourse in our day today socio-political set up.
- In the present study selected speeches will be scrutinized in relation to stylistic and CDA thereby developing exercises.
- These speeches will try to fill the gap in developing exercises on speeches for the students of under graduate level.

Methodology

In this research work various theoretical and methodological approaches will be applied from a sociological and epistemological perspective. Focus will be mainly on three central concepts- power, ideology and critique. Some of the principles and aims of Critical Discourse Analysis will also be discussed. With stylistics analysis of speeches i.e. finding

figures of speech, symbols, imagery and lexicons of speeches, a critical analysis of speeches will be done finding ideology, social, political or psychological discourse.

Most of the speeches will be taken from 'A Book of Modern Speeches' by Rakesh Batalya and analyzed. The focus will be particularly on ideology, interpersonal and textual information in speeches. The extracted portions will be carefully analyzed and exercises will be developed on the bases of stanzas and story comprehension.

Scheme Of Chapterisation:

This proposal Puts forth stylistic analysis and Critical Discourse Analysis of a collection of speeches from different categories (two speeches from each political, cultural, organizational and motivational speeches) produced over a period of time by famous orators.

Chapter I deals with introduction of Stylistics and Critical Discourse Analysis. It also deals with the detailed account of how speech analysis is done critically ; an extended account of the CDA, what it is and how it works. It also tells why CDA is considered to be the appropriate approach in dealing with the type of discourses chosen for analysis. Why is this particular method of analysis preferred to others? How many speeches have been taken and why?

Chapter II deals with analysis of political speeches of two famous speakers. CDA theory, principle and aims. An explanation of Halliday's theory and principles and also that of Norman Fairclough. The concept of politico, socio and psycho analytical discourse in various speeches is discussed here.

Chapter III deals with analysis of cultural speeches of two famous speakers; a detailed analysis of speeches by applying Critical Discourse Analysis. This chapter also deals with the process of globalization seen as a phenomenon closely linked to the events that triggered the speeches.

Chapter IV deals with the analysis of organizational speeches of two famous speakers and how the speakers win and convince the audience with their direct and indirect discourse. **Chapter V** deals with analysis of motivational speeches to two famous speakers and how the contextual use of words and sentences work to motivate the audience.

Chapter VI deals with a comparative study of speeches regarding different ideologies of the different orators. This chapter also presents exercises based on textual comprehension of different speeches as on stanza and passages. It also presents exercises based on textual comprehension of different speeches as on stanza and passage.

Chapter VII deals with conclusion and the possible outcomes of the research work.

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